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Q# has been dragged to a second icon, said first icon moved with movement of said pointing device;
and
changing a processing condition of the information processing to be performed on said
first icon based on result of said detection of the operation performed on the first icon.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the subject application. Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 11 is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13, 16, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bates. Claim 9 is objected to because of the typographical error of stating "preliminary" rather than "preliminarily" and has been amended to correct this typographical error for reasons unrelated to patentability. Claims 3, 5, 12, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Fitzpatrick. Claims 4, 10, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Smith. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above referenced application in light of the amendments above and remarks below.

Turning to the specific objections and rejections, claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 has been amended to be placed in independent form. Applicant now submits that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13, 16, 17 and 20 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bates. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The Office

Action considers Bates to teach a pointing device with a display unit for displaying a plurality of icons. Bates is considered to include a detection unit detecting a predetermined operation performed on a first icon which has been dragged to a second icon, the first icon being displayed on the display unit and moved with the movement of the pointing device. Lastly, Bates is considered by the Office Action to include a condition update unit for updating a processing condition in information processing based on the detection by said detection unit. However, even given this interpretation of Bates, it fails to teach the invention as now claimed by claim 1.

Applicant's invention as now more particularly defined provides a condition update unit which changes the processing condition to be performed by said second processing condition based on detection of the operation performed on the first icon. This is a clear departure from the prior art. Though the referenced portion of Bates relied in the Office Action teaches a drag and drop technique by which a user may invoke one of the multiple functions supported by printer icon 150 col. 7 lines 23-26, Bates is merely changing the function to be performed by selecting different regions of the second icon. Icon 150 includes a control region 152 for one type of data processing and control region 154 for a very separate second type of control processing. As clearly taught at column 7, lines 55-62, the user changes the function of the printer by simply releasing the left mouse button ("drop") either on print region 154 or control region 152. It is as if two processing icons were side by side with each other.

This is different than the claimed invention, which detects a motion of the first icon to change the processing condition of a single icon. In other words, it changes the processing conditions from a default condition to some other selected condition to be performed on the first icon based on the detection of the operation performed on the first icon. Even in the embodiments of the present application, where multiple icons are provided adjacent to each

other, an individual icon changes function based upon the movement of the first icon relative to the second icon prior to drop. This is not what is taught by the prior art. Accordingly, Bates does not teach the invention as claimed.

Claims 2 and 6-9 depend from claim 1 and define Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 2 defines the detection unit as detecting the movement of the first icon in a predetermined direction in the vicinity of the second icon during the dragging operation. This is the operation which is detected by the detection unit to change the processing condition of the second icon. What is happening in Bates is that no determination is made until the first icon is actually "dropped" on a region of the processing icon 150 to determine which of two processing conditions will be performed. Applicant's invention streamlines the process by actually causing the change prior to dropping. The Office Action considers Bates to teach that detection unit detects movement of the first icon in a predetermined direction (emphasis added) in the vicinity of the second icon. However, the direction of movement is irrelevant in Bates is long as the first icon arrives in the vicinity of region 154 or 152 for dropping. There is no mention in column 7 or column 8 of the direction of movement, only that icon 114 be deselected, i.e. dropped in a region of the printer icon 150. In other words, Bates is a drop' based, not dragged based technology.

Like claim 2, claim 6 depends from claim 1 and defines Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Claim 6 defines displaying the processing condition associated with the second icon in the vicinity of the second icon. Claim 7 also depends from claim 1 and defines the processing execution unit for executing the processing based on the processing condition which is either changed or unchanged by the condition update unit. Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and defines that the second icon includes a group of icons associated with the processing

condition, while claim 9 depends from claim 8 and further defines that at least one of the first icon, second icon and group of icons is preliminarily associated with the processing condition. However, what is emphasized is that because claim 8 is a group of icons, at least one of the icons in the group of icons has a processing condition which is changed based on the detection of the operation performed by the first icon. Accordingly, claims 2 and 6-9 are allowable as defining patentable combinations in their own right as well as depending from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claim 13 defines a method in which a processing condition to be performed on the first icon is changed based on detection of the operation performed on the first icon. As discussed above, this is a novel feature not taught by Bates. Claim 13 therefore, is allowable for reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claim 16 depends from claim 13 and, also defines that the second icon includes a group of icons associated with the processing condition, further defining a novel structure for changing the processing conditions of the underlying second icon. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 16 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claim 17 is directed to a computer readable recording medium for storing a program for execution of an information processing method, the information processing method including the step of changing the processing condition of the information processing to be performed on the first icon based on the detection of the operation performed on the first icon. Accordingly, the

Applicant submits for reasons discussed above that claim 17 is allowable over the prior art and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claim 20 depends from claim 17 and defines Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 17 defines that the second icon includes a group of icons associated with the processing condition. Applicant submits, for reasons discussed above, that claim 20 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 17 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claims 3, 5, 12, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Fitzpatrick. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action primarily relies upon Fitzpatrick as teaching detection of an icon that has stopped in the vicinity of another icon while the first icon is being dragged, something admitted in the Office Action not to be taught by Bates. However, the combination of Fitzpatrick with Bates does not overcome the deficiencies of Bates. Fitzpatrick does not teach changing a processing condition of the information processing to be performed on the first icon based on the results of detection of the operation, such as stopping, performed on the first icon. Rather, Fitzpatrick requires a two-step approach in order to change the parameters (condition) of the information processing. Rather than change the processing condition in response to detection of the operation performed on the first icon, Fitzpatrick after detection of the stopped icon gives the operator the option of changing the parameters or maintaining the default parameters. Column 4, lines 18-19 clearly teach that the default values of the drop operation **can** be overridden. (emphasize added) If it is detected in Fitzpatrick that a dragged first icon has been in the vicinity of the second "operating" icon and then dropped, a dialogue box 39 is displayed to

provide a list of available parameters to allow the user to quickly edit the values of the desired parameters. See col. 4, lines 21-32, col. 6, lines 53-61.

There is nothing that teaches the claimed invention as defined in the independent claims, let alone the specific features further defined by the dependent claims 3, 5, 12, 15 and 19. Specifically, claim 3, which depends from claim 1, defines one of the detected operations as stopping for a predetermined time. Claim 5 defines that the display changes the display form of the second icon in accordance with the set processing condition. Claims 12 and 15 define that with a group of icons the display unit changes the display form of at least one of the icons of the group of icons according to the set processing condition. This is a feature not taught by either Fitzpatrick or Bates either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 3, 5, 12 and 15 allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claims 1 and 13 and respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 19 depends from claim 17 and further defines the invention as changing the display form of the second icon according to a set processing condition. Applicant submits that claim 19 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 17 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 4, 10, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Smith. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Smith is relied upon in the Office Action to teach display units in which the second icon is a group of icons associated with the processing condition when the detection unit detects the predetermined operation of the first icon, something admitted in the Office Action not to be

taught by Bates. However, Smith does not overcome the deficiencies of Bates. It merely teaches that one single icon can represent a plurality of icons representative of a variety of operations, not that the processing condition themselves of each such operation to be performed on a first icon is to be changed by detected operation of the first icon. Accordingly, Smith either alone or in combination with Bates does not teach the claimed invention.

Claims 4 and 10 depend from claim 1 and define Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 4 defines that the display unit displays the second icon as a group of icons associated with the processing condition which is to be changed. Claim 10 indirectly depends from claim 1 and defines a combination of a plurality of processing conditions being set for each icon of the group of icons. Applicant submits that claims 4 and 10 are allowable as defining patentable combinations in their own right as well as depending from allowable claim 1 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and defines Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 14 also teaches the further step of displaying the second icon on the display as a group of icons associated with the processing condition when the predetermined operation is detected. As discussed above, Applicant submits that such a novel function is not taught by the prior art and Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 13. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and also defines that the information processing method includes the step of displaying the second icon on the display unit as a group of icons associated with the processing condition when the predetermined operation is detected. For reasons

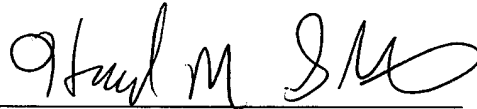
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discussed above, Applicants submit that claim 18 is also allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 17 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the above Application in Condition for Allowance. If the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney with a view toward discussing the outstanding issues.

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Respectfully submitted,



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DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS

Please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1,7, 9,11, 13 and 17 to read as follows:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a pointing device;

a display unit displaying a plurality of icons;

a detection unit detecting a predetermined operation performed on a

first icon which has been dragged to a second icon, said first icon displayed

on said display unit and moved with movement of said pointing device; and

a condition update unit changing ~~updating~~ a processing condition ~~in~~ of

information processing, represented by the second icon, to be performed on said first icon

based on the detection of the operation performed on the first icon ~~by said detection unit~~.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

further comprising a processing execution unit executing processing based

on the processing condition in information processing ~~updated~~ changed by said

condition update unit.

9. The information processing apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein

at least one of said first icon, said second icon and said group of icons

is ~~preliminary~~ preliminarily associated with said processing condition.

11. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a pointing device;

a display unit displaying a plurality of icons;

a detection unit detecting a predetermined operation performed on a

first icon which has been dragged to a second icon, said first icon being displayed

on said display unit and moved with movement of said pointing device, said second icon

including a group of icons associated with said processing condition; and

a condition update unit updating a processing condition in

information processing based on the detection by said detection unit.

~~The information processing apparatus according to claim 8,~~

wherein

—said condition update unit updates items common to processing conditions all together that is associated with said first icon, said second icon and said group of icons.

13. A method of processing information in an information processing apparatus including a pointing device and a display unit displaying a plurality of icons, comprising the steps of:

detecting a predetermined operation performed on a first icon which has been dragged to a second icon, said first icon moved with movement of said pointing device; and

changing a processing condition ~~in~~ of the information processing to be performed on said first icon based on a result of said detection of the operation performed on the first icon.

17. A computer readable recording medium on which a program is recorded for execution of an information processing method in an information processing apparatus including a pointing device and a display unit displaying a plurality of icons, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting a predetermined operation performed on a first icon which has been dragged to a second icon, said first icon moved with movement of said pointing device; and

changing a processing condition ~~in~~ of the information processing to be performed on said first icon based on

result of said detection of the operation performed on the first icon.